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MONTHLY JOURNAL OF
THE MUSHROOM GROWERS'
ASSOCIATION

MGA BULLETIN

APRIL, 1957 · NUMBER 88

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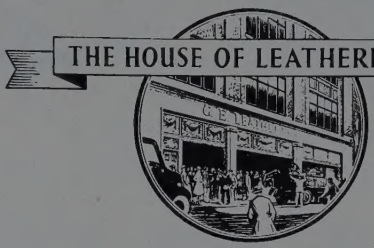

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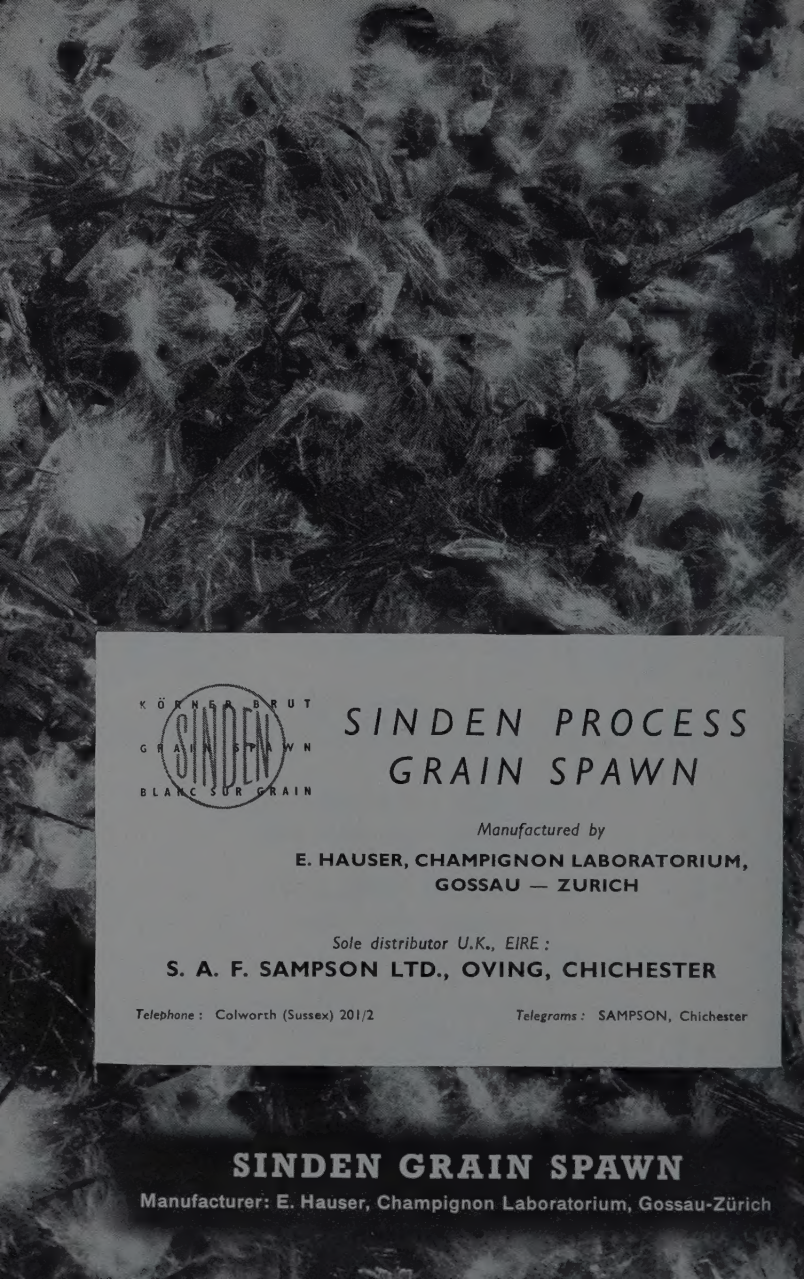

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MGA BULLETIN

APRIL, 1957
NUMBER 88

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G. V. Reed
J. Stewart-Wood

No responsibility can be accepted by the Editor, the Editorial Board, or the Mushroom Growers' Association for statements made or views expressed in this Bulletin, or for any advertisements included in this publication.

EDITORIAL

SIX OF ONE AND . . .

If a stranger had walked into the MGA Annual Meeting just at the time when Stanley Middlebrook was asking his pertinent questions about the reliability of spawn he or she might have been forgiven in forming the opinion that a first-class row had either already brewed or was certainly brewing. Yet nothing would have been further from the truth.

Earlier, at the Annual Luncheon, Mr. A. G. Linfield, speaking from a vast background of mushroom knowledge, had advised growers young and old " not to blame the spawn when things go wrong." Thus, on one hand came these words of wisdom and, from another and somewhat younger source (but of great experience nevertheless) came the suggestion that all was not as well as it might be in the world of those who produce the wherewithal from which mushrooms grow.

The two opinions, neither necessarily wrong nor necessarily right, gave a true balance to a most important topic in the world of mushroom cultivation.

It is so easy to blame the tools—it is a favourite occupation in many industries outside mushroom growing—when the fault can just as easily lie with the operator, in this case the grower. It is surely true that no spawnmaker can for long trade inferior and unreliable spawn and expect to remain in business and, by and large, there is no doubt that our own spawnmakers do put on the market a reliable and praiseworthy product. It is true also that no grower, long inefficient, would also remain in business.

Isn't the true answer to be found in the opinion that strains of spawn do, in fact, vary from time to time in spite of every precaution taken? And isn't it true also the growers themselves vary, that their compost and conditions vary too, that the outside weather is always varying, all having their effect on the environment in which a mushroom grows?

If all of us admit these things—that it is quite often a case of " Six of one and half dozen of the other "—each and everyone should benefit from the A.G.M. discussion.

WRA

NEW MGA CHAIRMAN Executive Committee Changes

Mr. George V. Allen of Bilting Nurseries Ltd., Bilting, Ashford, Kent, new MGA Chairman, has been growing mushrooms since 1937 and, called up at the outbreak of the Second World War and commissioned in "The Gunners," he afterwards returned to mushroom growing. Now farms 25,000 sq. ft., devoted to the tray system of growing.

He has been a member of the MGA since 1946, "I wasn't quite a founder-member but very nearly," he said. He has served on the Executive Committee for five years and was this Committee's Vice-Chairman last year, when he also carried out the duties of Chairman of the Publicity Sub-Committee. He is married with two children. Stepping into the Vice-Chairmanship is **Mr. Frank Bleazard** who's joint mushroom growing concerns at Blackpool and Steyning (Mereside Mushroom Company) run into a basic 50,000 sq. ft., mostly on trays. He is assisted by son John and, in addition, has a daughter still at school.

Mr. Bleazard joined the MGA in 1949, and has since been a keen and active MGA supporter. He has served on the Executive Committee since 1952.

Mr. J. Stewart-Wood of Aylesbury Mushrooms Ltd., Aylesbury, former MGA Chairman and Member of the MRA Board returns to the Committee after an absence of one year. He is a founder-member of the MGA and one of the most popular figures in the mushroom world. Married, he has three children. Keen on flying and a former R.A.F. pilot, he uses his plane to save time between his two mushroom farms.

In addition to mushrooms, he runs two general farms. Specialities include mushrooms, planes, fast cars, turkeys and sheep.

Newcomer to the Executive is **Mr. P. B. Stanley-Evans,** married, aged 41, with two children. Like Mr. Allen he was commissioned in the Army during the last war. He has been interested in mushroom growing since 1934. In the course of a year Shackleford Nurseries Ltd., of which Mr. Stanley-Evans is a Director, crop some 40,000 sq. ft. of mushrooms beds, partly in sheds and partly in glasshouses where they take their place in a three year rotation with tomatoes, chrysanthemums and sweet peas. Outside the nursery and mushrooms Mr. Stanley-Evans also has a farm some two miles away, where thirty breeding sows are kept and their progeny sold as baconers. The pigs provide manure for the nursery and the used compost goes to provide crops for the pigs. He has served on the Surrey Agricultural Executive Committee for the last four years and is also a member of the NFU County Executive and Horticultural Committees. Shelf grower.

Another newcomer to the Committee who, like Mr. Stanley-Evans was elected at the first time of asking is **Mr. A. J. Berry,** of The Dell Mushroom Farm, Reservoir Road, Ruislip Common, Middx., a particularly keen supporter of MGA publicity.

Mr. Berry, married, also has two children. His farm is one of 12,000 sq. ft., and he specialises in direct-to-shops sales. He is 47 and joined the MGA in 1950.

Re-elected to the Committee were **Mr. Guy Reed** of Woking and **Mr. N. R. Cooper** of Kimcote, near Rugby.

"CHIN UP, DON'T WORRY, COME ALONG WITH US"

says A. G. LINFIELD

140 Attend Annual Luncheon

Guest of Honour at the annual luncheon of the MGA, held in the Connaught Rooms, on 26th March, was Mr. A. G. Linfield, C.B.E., J.P., head of the vast mushroom growing concern of A. G. Linfield Ltd., of Thakeham, Sussex, who plan to produce 7½ million lb. of mushrooms in the coming year.

Mr. Linfield was accompanied by Mrs. Linfield and they, along with other members and guests were received by the Chairman of the MGA, Mr. G. W. Baker, accompanied by Mrs. Baker. Both Mrs. Linfield and Mrs. Baker were presented with bouquets.

The luncheon followed the Chairman's Reception and, after lunch, in welcoming all the guests which in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Linfield, included M. André Simon, President of the Wine & Food Society, Mr. Brian Branston and Mr. John Furness of the B.B.C., Mr. H. R. Haynes (Senior Horticultural Secretary of the NFU), Mr. Harrison (NFU), Mr. Baker had a particular word of praise for the various ladies who assisted in so many ways.

Mr. Baker then had a warm word of welcome for Mr. Linfield, who, he said, was Chairman of the S. West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, Chairman of the West Sussex National Health Executive Council and a former Chairman of the West Sussex Agricultural Executive Committee. Mr. Linfield had supported the MGA over a number of years and both he and his son, Mr. J. A. Linfield (now on the MGA Executive Committee) were with their valuable experience keen to play their part in the Association.

Replying, Mr. Linfield said : First of all I would like to thank you for the reception you have given me this afternoon. I am to respond to " The Guests " and I want to say on behalf of the guests thank you for your wonderful hospitality. Mushroom growers are a very friendly crowd and when they have gathered together it is not long before everyone realises this.

A photograph was recently taken of five of the members of my organisation with myself in the middle. I did not think it a very flattering photograph but included in the inset were five pigs! They were quite good looking! I am wondering whether the suggestion is that we are being pigs to increase our production (laughter).

I do not think you need be alarmed about the 6% or 16% increase in production which will come about if we are lucky enough to miss all the diseases which are common to all mushroom growers. We have faith in the industry and there is a great future for it. It is handed to you on a plate to-day compared with what I had to face in my young days. Then we had two major troubles : Springtails and Bubble.

After experimental work we found the cause was the casing soil. This was put right afterwards. To-day we have scientists, the MGA, etc., and what I want to make clear is the friendliness of this industry. When I was young if you went to call on a mushroom grower you would find a fence all round the place. Once inside the gates you were allowed to go to the office but again a screen was there and you could not see into the place and you were only allowed to go round certain selected parts. We once engaged an expert in mushroom growing who came down to Worthing. I was not allowed into the buildings which were fenced round and the whole thing was conducted in entire secrecy. In the end he produced about half the mushrooms we produced ourselves (laughter). That is the kind of thing we faced in the early days. Look at us to-day! You have the MGA and wonderful help for everyone who is starting mushroom growing. I am glad the MGA is affiliated with the NFU. I notice a tendency with some horticulturists to suggest a break away. That, I think, would be madness, a retrograde step and one I hope you will not take.

One of the most valuable parts of the MGA's work is the publicity side. The work of publicity for mushrooms to-day is a wonderful triumph. I think you have put across mushrooms far better than anyone could expect and the money spent has been very well spent indeed and I hope we shall back it more and more as time goes on.

I have one or two suggestions to make about publicity, among them one about " Miss Mushroom of America " who's picture appeared in page 95 of the last Bulletin. I would like to suggest we invite " Miss Mushroom " over for a week or two and ask our Chairman to take her about (if Mrs. Baker will allow) and as she dances she will say to herself " What a man! If this is what mushroom eating means I am going to start eating them at once" (laughter). But seriously, we have to think of publicity and the taste of the public to-day. We have to get the right approach.

There is a spirit among the mushroom growers which is extremely good and that is mutual aid. We as a body are conscious of the difficulties and stress of a mushroom grower's life and in consequence we are always sympathetic when someone strikes a bad patch. We can all do this. I want to say to the young grower—have a shot and stick to it and I am sure you will make good. There are plenty of people in the mushroom growing world who will help you through any difficulties. This is one of the very impressive features among mushroom growers.

I am not a spawn man to-day but I have been and the trials of to-day are nothing like the days of the past. We had no less than 200 varieties of mushrooms. We had not the knowledge to retain a good specimen when we found it, we did not know what colour it would be and just took what came. Now you have science to your aid, you have a wonderful supply of spawn from different makers and I want to give you this bit of advice. ' Don't always blame the spawn.' How many times have you blamed the spawn when it has been something else? It is so easy to blame the spawn.

Continued on page 143

CHAIRMAN'S RECEPTION PICTURES

Top left, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Linfield in conversation with Mr. Guy Reed. Top right, New MGA Chairman, Mr. G. V. Allen, has a word with Mr. P. B. Stanley-Evans, later to be elected to the Executive Committee. Mrs. Stanley-Evans is also on the picture. Centre left, Mr. Neil C. Snowdon (C. Snowdon & Co. Ltd., Sheffield) has a word with Mr. R. Duthy (Greenacre Graded Mushrooms). Centre, Mr. A. G. Linfield making his "Chin up" speech. Centre right, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford King, with the Secretary-Editor. Bottom left, this group includes Mr. S. A. F. Sampson, Mr. Rodwell and extreme right, Mrs. Baker senior, whilst Mr. Harold Darlington (W. Darlington & Sons Ltd.) is at the back-centre. Bottom right are Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Baker with some of the guests, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Linfield and M. André Simon, President of the Wine & Food Society.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting was attended by over 80 members, a fact favourably commented on by the MGA Chairman, Mr. G. W. Baker, who presided and who, in his Annual Report, said:—

Having held our Annual General Meeting for three years in conjunction with the Annual Trade Show, it was decided, owing to the programme of the Show expanding each year, to revert to holding the Luncheon and Annual Meeting here in London, as in the years prior to 1953.

It has been an extremely busy year for the Association as a whole and particularly for the Executive Committee.

Not only have we had a full number of Executive meetings, which each time take up a full day, and many members of the Committee travel long distances at their own expense to attend, but we have had numerous sub-committees working during the past year. I would like to thank sincerely all the members of the Committee for the very loyal support they have given me as Chairman and thank them on your behalf for the work—the very fine work—they have done for the Association.

Before reviewing the year's work I would like to record our special thanks to the three retiring members who are not seeking re-election.

Mr. Basil Harding has served for many years and has been a tower of strength to the Association. He has been for a considerable time on the Editorial Board of the Bulletin. As a founder-member of the Kent, Surrey and Sussex self-appointed Area Committee, he held the first Farm Walk in this area on his farm and has served on this Committee ever since. **Mr. A. G. Pointing** has done a considerable amount of valuable committee work and his name will always be connected with the MRA Committee, which body benefited our industry far more than most realise. We trust his health will continue to improve and that in the not too far distant future we shall again see his name up for election. **Mr. Raymond Thompson** has completely worn himself out for the Association and needs time to recuperate—I have told him he must recover in the next 12 months. He will be a great loss temporarily. A few of us, privileged to work with him, know the work he has done for publicity from its infancy. He will be missed on the Show Committee, having been one of the organisers of the Tunbridge Wells, Brighton and Eastbourne Shows.

I should like, on your behalf, to congratulate **Mr. Stewart-Wood,** one of our past Chairmen, who is seeking re-election this year, on being granted a Royal Warrant for supplying Mushrooms to the Royal Household.

Now, to briefly review the work of your Committee since the last A.G.M.

Publicity Finance. A special sub-committee appointed immediately after the A.G.M. has proved a great asset to the General Publicity Committee. It was this sub-committee which, after having been frustrated

in its efforts to increase the income from the Spawn Levy in its existing form, took the bit between its teeth and approached every individual Member and asked for authority to instruct the spawn makers to charge the levy at an increased rate of 2d. per carton. The result was outstanding and over 90% of the members backed the scheme. It was this scheme, together with the support from the spawn distributors, wholesalers and sundriesmen, that formed a sound financial basis for Publicity and our thanks are due to Mr. Filmer for the work he did in connection with it.

Publicity. The Publicity Committee continued with the good work which had gone on during the previous two years. **Capt. Lawrence** who had done so much during his term of office for Publicity continued to serve on this sub-committee.

During the year, **Mr. Allen** took over the Chairmanship from **Mr. Guy Reed,** who undertook the duties of Public Relations Officer. Our thanks are due to these gentlemen and others on the sub-committee for the Publicity obtained for mushrooms, the value of which was assessed by the Publicity expert as being worth many many times the actual cost to the Association.

Among the main publicity efforts during the year was first a Press Conference in which we secured the valued help and co-operation of the Trade Press, who gave us much needed publicity for the publicity fund. There followed a highly successful effort on entirely new ground—the Women's Press Club. So large was the attendance that the club was unable to accommodate all those who wished to be present and many guests stood about on the pavement outside. From this venture much excellent publicity flowed through the medium of the various journals catering for women. This was followed up by an organised visit to a farm. Again the venture proved successful beyond our hopes and again much valuable publicity was obtained—and is still being obtained as a result of this farm walk and luncheon for women journalists.

Among other publicity efforts during the year was the " Mushroom Week " at Selfridges, where an entire window was devoted to mushrooms and which, because of the interest it maintained, was kept going longer than originally intended and in one instance police complained about the crowd forming.

Mushrooms have been frequently referred to on the Radio and Television, publicity mediums from which immense publicity value can be obtained. On two occasions mushrooms have been the subject of discussion on the BBC's " Farm Fare " programme. We were at the Food Fair in Olympia, taking part with the National Farmers' Union " Fresh Food from British Farms " campaign and, through the energy of **Mr. Guy Reed,** mushrooms were featured too on several other stands. Many thousands of recipes were distributed and whilst this form of publicity is sometimes criticised, much good is inevitably derived from such efforts.

An interesting film in colour with sound track was made by the Esso Petroleum Co. on Mushroom Growing at Oxted and 14 copies are in circulation throughout the country. The Committee judged it an

excellent film for showing to the public as it brings out the difficulties of growing and substantiates the prices mushrooms command. A film made by a commercial film company would have cost the Association £5,000—£7,000. The foregoing and many other publicity efforts have helped growers enjoy the benefit of very stable prices throughout the past year.

Mushroom Compost. A sub-committee was appointed in November, 1955, under the chairmanship of **Mr. Harding,** and after a long deliberation a full report was submitted to the Executive Committee. The findings of the committee were that it was not practicable to market it at a nationally agreed price aided by national advertising.

Eastbourne Show. The sub-committee consisted of the sub-committee who had organised the Tunbridge Wells and Brighton Shows in 1954 and 1955 and once again **Mr. Thompson** proved a great asset on this committee. The Trade Show was the largest we have held and brought together a large number of growers and sundriesmen. As our year's accounts close on 31st October, the accounts for the Show are not in this year's balance sheet, but financially it was a great success. The privilege of being able—as an MGA member—to attend the lectures given by **Mr. Rasmussen, Mr. Toovey** and **Mr. Stewart-Wood** was worth every penny of the year's subscription.

An innovation was the Dinner and Dance which proved to be an outstanding success.

May I, at this point, mention the appeal I made on behalf of the Hungarian Relief Fund? The final amount raised at Eastbourne reached the magnificent sum of £1,010 0s. 3d. I do sincerely thank those members and friends for their generous support.

Research. During the year the MRA was officially wound up and I would like to record our appreciation of the very fine work done on behalf of the Mushroom Industry by **Mr. Atkins, Dr. Edwards** and the members who have served on the MRA Committees. Your committee is very research minded and we have **Mr. Atkins** and **Mr. Thompson,** together with **Mr. Hovell, Mr. Glasscock** and **Mr. Morton** as a liaison advisory panel in connection with the Ministry's Littlehampton Station and " The Things to Come " are gradually taking shape, we have been told in a number of confidential reports.

MGA Experimental Farm. A sub-committee was appointed to investigate the possibilities of the MGA having its own Experimental Farm. Again, much time and the most careful consideration was given to this suggestion, but the committee came to the conclusion that the time was not yet ripe for such a venture in view of all the circumstances. **Mr. Middlebrook** proved to be a most useful member of this committee.

Membership Drive. A special effort was made, during the year, to increase membership, but although a number of new members were obtained, this was not as successful as we had hoped; but thanks are due to **Mr. Gook** for his work in connection with this.

Area Representation. Area Representation, Area Committees and Postal Voting have, for some years, been referred to at various meetings of the Association and at last a scheme has been devised whereby these three things can be brought into being. The sub-committee spent a considerable amount of time investigating this matter and the Executive Committee as a whole recommend that this scheme is accepted in principle and that you instruct the Executive Committee to proceed with the plans to bring these matters into operation. I would point out however, that, as regards Area Committees, the recommendation is that they should come into being only provided the areas concerned wish it.

1957 Conference. This year it has been decided not to hold the usual type of Exhibition and Conference but instead to substitute a two-day refresher course at Southport, on 2nd and 3rd October, with **Mr. Bleazard** as chairman of the organising committee. The mushroom cup competitions are to be continued and it is hoped that a machinery demonstration will also be held. Whether or not it was advisable to depart from the usual Exhibition and Conference remains to be seen but it is proposed to renew this programme in 1958, probably at Bournemouth.

International Conference. It was particularly pleasing to me, as your Chairman, to accompany the official MGA party to the International Conference in Paris, last June. This party numbered between 40 and 50 members and, I feel, did a very great deal to further establish the MGA in the international field.

Farm Walks. Another field in which the Association was particularly active was that of Farm Walks, and six such gatherings made a particular contribution to the life of the MGA. I refer to the Walks at Bradford-on-Avon by kind permission of **Mr. Pointing,** Ormskirk by **Messrs. Martland,** Cranleigh by **Mr. Ady,** Thakeham by **Messrs. A. G. Linfield** (attended by over 300), Coleraine by **Mrs. Young,** which was the first-ever farm walk in Northern Ireland, and finally Oxted by **Broadham Produce Co.** We are most grateful to them for allowing the walks and for their hospitality.

Runciman Committee. The Association, as a specialist branch of Horticulture, was given the facilities to submit its own report for the Runciman Committee and the Secretary and I appeared before that Committee and were given an excellent hearing.

Subscriptions. Increasing the subscription to any organisation is always a touchy matter for those who have the management of such organisations and the decision to increase subscriptions to the MGA was another matter given the most careful consideration. The old rate of subscriptions had existed for almost the whole of the life of the MGA and it was quite an achievement to have resisted the need for any increase so long. Again, in making recommendations on this matter your Committee was quite certain that the members would take a realistic view of the matter and agree to the increase. This was borne out by the meeting at Eastbourne and by the fact that few, if any, members have resigned.

The Bulletin. The Bulletin continues to play its full part in MGA affairs and provides that essential link, month by month, between growers, not only in this country, but in so many lands overseas. Unfortunately there has, over the past few years, been a sharp increase in the costs of production amounting to nearly 40% in the past three years without any increase in the advertising rates. The Editorial Board has the matter under careful consideration and has come to the conclusion that an increase in the rates can no longer be avoided.

MGA Office. During the year the MGA Office moved, with the rest of the NFU, to the present palatial building known as Agriculture House, Knightsbridge. The move was achieved without undue disruption to the work of the office, work which appears to be on the increase. However, the Secretary now has regular help in the office by the appointment of Miss Kolk, who began her work as Assistant Secretary last August.

Treasurer. At the beginning of this year it was decided to relieve future Chairmen of some of the responsibility of finance and **Mr. Filmer** has kindly taken on the office of Honorary Treasurer.

In conclusion, may I sincerely thank our Secretary, **Mr. Winston Alderton,** for the manner in which he has carried out his duties during the past year and for the service he has given to the Association, and thank you all for the support you have given to me.

SECRETARY'S REPORT—

The year under review (1955-56) has been one of steady progress and this has been particularly noticeable in the membership figures which now stand at the record total figure of 658, 83 more than the 1954 figures, which were then themselves a record. I have made this comparison date back two years because last year the normal period was extended for two months to bring our financial year in line with the NFU rules. This 1955-56 figure of 658 is made up of 406 Grower Members (up by 63 compared with 1954) and 252 Associate Members (up 20 compared with 1954). This and other signs strengthen the view that interest in the mushroom industry is steadily increasing.

The circulation of the Bulletin has increased as well, but unfortunately advertising revenue showed a drop on the year of £135, although so far in this current year this drop has been more than rectified. It is with particular pleasure that I once again acknowledge the work of the Editorial Board without whose assistance publication, to say the least, would be extremely difficult if not impossible. This publication is, I feel, a most important link between growers and members in general, not only in the United Kingdom but in many lands overseas.

With finances on such a slender footing the size of the Bulletin must depend on advertising revenue. All members are urged to support Bulletin advertisers to the fullest possible extent for, by so doing, they will give additional support to the Association.

Continued on page 122

A general view of the Annual Luncheon.

Your Executive Committee met seven times and the attendances were:—Mr. G. W. Baker, Mr. G. V. Allen, Capt. G. P. Lawrence, Messrs. F. C. Atkins, F. Bleazard, E. A. Gook and R. Thompson (7), N. R. Cooper, W. A. B. Harding, A. G. Pointing and G. V. Reed (6), J. A. Linfield and S. Middlebrook (5), F. L. Filmer (4) and A. Campbell Melville (3).

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT—

Accounts. In presenting the accounts, **Mr. F. L. Filmer** pointed out that he began his duties as Hon. Treas., on 1st January of this year, and said, "I cannot therefore hold myself responsible for these accounts." Owing to the previous accounting period dealing with a total of 14 months, comparisons between the two were not really possible and, in fact, the Auditors had advised against it. The excess of income over expenditure " is not too bad," said Mr. Filmer, who then added a warning about increased expenditure in the present year. The new office at Agriculture House meant higher rent, an Assistant Secretary had been appointed, whilst the Secretary too had been given a rise, "the first since he has been with us." Various other increases would be going on and subscription rates had obviously had to be increased.

Dr. R. L. Edwards asked if a more detailed statement could be given with regard to Publicity and especially asked about the item dealing with the cost of printing, Committee meetings and Miscellaneous Expenses. The Secretary said, in error, Mr. Reed's expenses had been included under that item and Mr. Filmer said that it was intended, in future years, to set this account out in more detail. Replying to a further point made by Dr. Edwards, the Secretary stated that with regard to publicity literature this was charged to members at half cost.

Mr. Middlebrook asked if the expenditure on the Press Luncheon at Oxted had been justified, adding, "Judging by the figures, champagne must have flowed freely " (laughter).

The Secretary said that Press entertainment was useless unless done properly. On this occasion it was the intention to make those present remember it as an outstanding luncheon and the results more than justified this expenditure. For instance, as a direct result, half a page on mushrooms appeared in the *Manchester Evening News*. There had also been numerous other traceable results.

Mr. T. J. Rudkin: I don't know the cost of advertising in that particular paper, but half a page in the *Daily Mail* would cost £2,000.

The accounts were adopted, on the proposition of Mr. J. Stewart-Wood, seconded by Mr. A. DeB. Hovell.

News of the sudden death from a heart attack on 16th March, of Mr. C. H. Edmondson, Manager for the Bradford Fertilizer Co. Ltd., came as a shock to his many friends in the Mushroom Industry. He had always taken a particular and personal interest in the marketing of ready-mixed Activators in the MRA synthetic compost formula. The late Mr. Edmondson was a familiar figure at the MGA Annual Exhibitions.

PUBLICITY PLANS OUTLINED . . .

By **G. V. Allen** (*Chairman, Publicity Committee*)

In our opinion, Publicity is of even more vital importance to-day than ever before. We have all heard of the large expansion scheme of Messrs. A. G. Linfield, already under way, but we must also bear in mind that many other growers are also planning expansion, though possibly in a more modest way. Output has steadily increased since the war, a very natural process in such an active and healthy industry; but I personally do not think there is any reason for undue concern among us, even the smaller growers.

The potential demand for our product exists and it remains only for us to ensure that the consuming public is educated to use our mushrooms. It is a well-known fact that demand strongly increases as soon as the market price falls, or perhaps I should say, as soon as the **Retail** price falls. Logical reasoning should make us realise that even if a 6 or 8 per cent. increase in supplies occurs, we need not anticipate anything like the equivalent drop in price. No doubt the price may fall, but with that fall should come an automatic increase in demand which will arrest any possible landslide. Even the most mercenary of us growers will admit that we could manage with that penny or two less per pound of mushrooms and the correct answer to the problem is to so improve our production methods and resulting crops, that the few pence possibly lost on the market returns is regained by cutting costs of production.

It is **Publicity**, coupled with improved Growing, which supplies the answer to our problems in the future, and it is hoped that you will all continue to support your Association's Publicity Fund, both by financial contributions and other practical ways within your own operating areas.

Paper Bags

Firstly, we have our Paper Bag scheme. You have all, I hope, got a sample bag at your tables. We plan to market bags of this type all over the country. In order to bring the scheme to your notice at this meeting, we have inaugurated a small pilot scheme in the S.E. area, handled by one firm in that area. I stress, this is only a pilot scheme which, if successful, will be repeated from centres all over the country. In the meantime, any of you who would like to purchase some of these bags now, may do so by ordering direct from the makers, Wm. Hobbs & Sons Ltd., Maidstone, Kent. The bags will cost 11/6 per 1,000, which is a very fair competitive price with similar or plain bags, and retailers should be willing to pay this price for them. Present funds enable us to contemplate a total distribution of at least 20 millions. If any of you feel you have any helpful comments to make on the bag design, we shall be glad to receive them.

Tea Centre Exhibition

We have made arrangements to hold a week's Exhibition at the Tea Centre in Lower Regent Street, in conjunction with the Gas Board.

We have taken the week of 8th to 12th July, and during this time Mushroom Publicity in its various forms will be furthered, with the usual cookery demonstrations, etc., assisted by the Gas Board. We hope to entertain the Press on the opening day and serve free sample mushroom " eats " to all and sundry. Eventually, we contemplate that similar exhibitions may be held in other Provincial Centres, in each case attracting the Press of that area.

Brighton-Radiation Gas Cookers

We have accepted an invitation to co-operate with Radiation Ltd., at an Exhibition and series of Cookery Demonstrations to be held in Brighton. Although we were at Brighton last year, we felt that the opportunity should be taken, as the cost will be small. Jean Conil will be the demonstrator.

Apart from this scheme, we hope to co-operate further elsewhere with Gas Board Demonstrations, etc.

Magazines, Newspapers, BBC, Television, etc.

The success we have had in these fields in the past, we hope to continue. I would impress on you all that these forms of advertising are normally the most expensive and we have been very fortunate in that our product has gained such frequent verbal or pictorial mention both on Radio, T.V. and in Trade Advertisements, with very small cost. Keep your eyes and ears open and see how often you see a Mushroom Recipe in a magazine, or a mushroom included in a photograph actually advertising some other product. It will generally not be " just by accident."

Southport

As you all know, this year's Trade Show as such has been waived and instead we are holding a Refresher Course up at Southport. It is in our minds to further Publicity in the North by holding a Mushroom Week in that area, possibly at Leeds. No definite plans have been made but the recommendation is being passed to the new Publicity Committee.

Lastly, I would ask you all to send in to our Secretary any original ideas you may have to help us in our Publicity campaign. We probably cannot adopt them all, but at least we can select those that are practical.

MGA EXECUTIVE LOSES " ELDER STATESMEN "

Three members of the MGA Executive Committee, including two who might be described as among the MGA " Elder Statesmen," did not seek re-election at the annual meeting of the MGA last month.

Mr. W. A. B. Harding of Tenterden, Kent, founder-member of the MGA, has served on the Executive Committee since its inception, with the exception of the first year. He has too, been a member of the Bulletin Editorial Board for a number of years and served also on several Sub-Committees of the MGA. He and another " Elder Statesman," Mr. A. G. Pointing (Bradford-on-Avon), also a member of the Executive for some years both said, referring to their decision not to seek re-election, " It is time some of the younger members had a go."

Third member of the Executive who did not seek re-election, was Mr. Raymond Thompson (Chichester), who's somewhat strenuous three years on the committee included service on the Publicity Sub-Committee.

STEROLE 'M'

Especially for mushroom growers

This high grade emulsified coal tar antiseptic formulation is particularly recommended for mushroom farm hygiene

40 GALLON DRUMS - - - £12 · 17 · 6

also available in 5 gallon containers

Sole Distributors: **GEO. MONRO LTD.**

WALTHAM CROSS, HERTS.

and at : Aylesford, Cheltenham, Great Totham
Guernsey, Penzance, Spalding
Swanwick and Worthing

AREA REPRESENTATION :

The Executive Committee's recommendations on Area Representation, Area Committees and Postal Voting were adopted without discussion on the proposition of Mr. W. A. B. Harding, seconded by Mr. A. G. Pointing.

DISCUSSION :

A discussion followed on the policy to be adopted for the coming year and the Publicity Committee's paper bag scheme occupied considerable time.

Mr. H. F. Barton: Would not a white paper bag be preferable?

Mr. G. W. Baker: White paper is not as strong as brown and retailers prefer to use brown bags.

Mr. A. DeB. Hovell: Why not have something more simple with a caption like " Have mushrooms with your bacon!" or " Have mushrooms with your mixed grill!"

Mr. R. Thompson: We are trying to get simple recipes across to the public and this seems an obvious way of doing it.

Mr. Hovell : I suggest that we have other bags with other recipes.

Mr. G. Griffiths said that an authority on mushrooms had advised him not to use the word " inexpensive " in connection with mushrooms. He suggested that the top class be catered for.

Mr. S. Middlebrook: There is too much matter on the top of bag which cannot be read when the bag is screwed up.

Mr. G. V. Allen thought one might as well put something there rather than leave a blank.

Mr. J. Ady: The Committee is in favour of prices going down a penny or two. It would be wrong to force prices down and much better to let supply and demand take care of the whole matter.

Mr. Allen: The Committee is not in favour of prices going down, the opinion expressed was that most members could afford such a drop if it came about.

Mr. Ady: Prices should keep up with cost of production. The grower in the country who retails mushrooms at 1/- a quarter is asking for trouble.

Mr. Baker: The policy of the Association is to stimulate demand and let prices take care of themselves. Increased demand of mushrooms will automatically result in fair prices.

SPAWN :

Mr. Middlebrook : Most of us have grown fewer mushrooms than ever before during the last six months owing to bad spawn. Since it is impossible to grow a good crop of anything without a decent reliable seed, can the Association not do something about getting us a guaranteed product? It just won't do to have a crop of brown mushrooms from a white spawn. I am willing to have an Open Day at Selby to show how cartons of spawn from a given batch can vary, as seen on the compost surface before casing.

Continued on page 130

The CULVERWELL Manure Turner

FOR MUSHROOM GROWERS

PETROL *or* ELECTRIC

EXTREMELY MOBILE

£225
Ex Works

The small machine with the BIG turnover

Bruises and aerátes–does not shred. CAN BE USED FOR ALL TURNINGS. 3 men handle 25/50 tons per day. Waters as it turns. Stacks up to 5 feet. By using the CULVERWELL MANURE TURNER throughout the whole composting process, the work is reduced to the minimum, time taken is shorter with improved results.

Will pass through a door 2' 10" × 5' 10" with the detachable wheels removed

E. O. CULVERWELL Ltd.

MALLING WORKS LEWES · SUSSEX

Telephone
LEWES 637
(5 LINES)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries and Clerical Assistance	1,258 1 8	
Less: Publicity Administration	200 0 0	
		1,058 1 8
Office Rent		172 10 0
Postages, Printing and Stationery		299 1 2
Telephone and Telegrams		50 10 2
Travelling, Hotel and Entertainment Expenses		208 6 9
Proportion of Cost of Membership Drive..		44 4 11
Cost of Executive Committee Meetings		44 5 8
Subscriptions to Trade Journals, etc.		14 16 0
Bank Charges and Cheque Book		2 0 2
Audit Fees and Accountancy		57 15 0
General Expenses		40 12 9
Depreciation of Office Equipment		15 0 0
		2,007 4 3
Balance being *Excess* of Income over Expenditure carried to Accumulated Fund..		135 5 1
		£2,142 9 4

PUBLICITY FUND ACCOUNT FOR

	£ s. d.
Oxted Farm Walk and Women's Press Club	424 12 3
Printing, Committee Meetings, Travelling and Miscellaneous Expenses..	831 14 4
Administration Expenses	200 0 0
Food Fair	250 0 0
Advertising	122 5 4
	1,828 11 11
Balance being *Excess* of Income over Expenditure for the year carried to Publicity Fund	983 3 4
	£2,811 15 3

BALANCE SHEET

LIABILITIES

£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	SUNDRY CREDITORS AND CREDIT BALANCES:		
906	General	273 0 6	
410	Publicity	3 10 0	
200	Estimated Subscriptions received in advance	300 0 0	
150	Estimated NFU Contribution	— — —	
			576 10 6
	PUBLICITY FUND:		
	Balance as at 1st November, 1955 ..	337 15 5	
	Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year to date	983 3 4	
338			1,320 18 9
	ACCUMULATED FUND:		
	Balance brought forward—1st Nov., 1955	686 3 10	
	Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure for the year to date	135 5 1	
686			821 8 11
£2,690			£2,718 18 2

We hereby certify that the above Balance Sheet has been correctly drawn up i

110 CANNON STREET, LONDON, E.C.4.
7th March, 1957.

THE YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER, 1956

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Subscriptions from Ordinary Members		1,464 0 0
Subscriptions from Associate Members		527 1 2
Sale of Advertising Space in Bulletin, Sale of Bulletin and Literature	1,801 17 9	
Add: Stock of Saleable Literature 31st October, 1956 ..	123 0 0	
	1,924 17 9	
Less: Stock of Saleable Literature 1st November, 1955 .. £ 100 0 0		
Cost of Bulletins and Literature £ 1,683 13 3		
	1,783 13 3	
		141 4 6
Sundry Receipts		10 3 8
		£2,142 9 4

YEAR ENDED 31st OCTOBER, 1956

	£ s. d.
Receipts for the year	2,761 15 3
Stock of Saleable Literature	50 0 0
	£2,811 15 3

31st OCTOBER, 1956

ASSETS

£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
4	CASH IN HANDS OF SECRETARY		4 7
	CASH AT NATIONAL PROVINCIAL BANK LTD.:		
332	General Account	446 15 8	
924	Publicity Account	1,339 12 9	
			1,786 8 5
	SUNDRY DEBTORS AND DEBIT BALANCES	635 2 0	
	Less: Reserve for Doubtful Debts ..	50 0 0	
1,141			585 2 0
100	STOCK OF SALEABLE LITERATURE: (as valued by Secretary)		173 0 0
4	LIBRARY BOOKS—Balance as at 1st Nov., 1955		4 3 2
	OFFICE EQUIPMENT—Balance as at 1st Nov., 1955	185 0 0	
	Less: Depreciation	15 0 0	
185			170 0 0
£2,690			£2,718 18 2

rdance with the books, records, vouchers, information and explanations given to us.

SPENCER, FELLOWS & CO.
Incorporated Accountants.

Continued from page 126

Mr. Baker: Mr. Middlebrook's offer gratefully accepted.

Mr. F. C. Atkins: The fact is that spawn is not as sacrosanct and reliable as it used to be believed.

Dr. R. L. Edwards: I doubt if by making our own spawn we would be free from unforeseen mishaps, but we would sympathize more with the spawn-makers if they were a little more forthcoming, and instead of putting up a feasible reason for the failure, would sometimes accept the fault as their own. If it had not happened one would be justified in considering it would be impossible for brown mushrooms to grow from a white spawn made in a laboratory where no brown mushrooms were handled. But any attempt by growers to make their own spawn would expose them to even greater risks, and a long trial period would be needed before a change-over to that spawn would be safe.

Mr. R. Duthy: When I came back from a visit to the States I suggested at a meeting of the Committee that research and other expenditure of the Mushroom Growers' Association were entirely financed by the profits of the Association selling spawn. This could be done with prominent scientists like Dr. Edwards on our side. Now as members of the NFU we cannot take up any profit-making activity.

Mr. Robt. G. Darlington: Whilst Mr. Middlebrook has been unfortunate, that does not necessarily justify the generalization that all spawnmakers are not up-to-date. Mr. Middlebrook should instead give a persistent trial to some of the British spawn manufacturers.

Mr. Atkins: Mushroom growers, as they become experienced, get to realize they do not know as much about growing as they thought they did. Spawnmakers do not admit it. They do not know as much about the biology of the mushroom as sometimes we have come to believe. That is the beginning and the end of it.

MUSHROOM COMPETITIONS

Mr. Ady: Support of mushrooms competitions has been very poor in the past. Could not a flat entry fee be substituted for the present arrangement whereby the mushrooms entered are appropriated in lieu of a fee. This is hard on those entering for the more costly classes.

Mr. Baker: The suggestion will be put before the Committee and more support is hoped for from the Northern growers next year.

Mr. F. Bleazard: We are committed to an Exhibition at Southport and either the competitions should be supported or else not held at all.

Mr. Griffiths: Why is this Exhibition always held in a seaside town and never in an industrial area?

Mr. Baker: In a conference town we pay a token fee of £50 for a hall as opposed to £200 or £300 in any other town. In London for instance the cost for exhibitors would go up four, five times. Hotel accommodation is more suitable in seaside towns.

Mr. Baker announced that Mr. Groom, from Dublin, had issued an invitation for growers to visit his farm at a date to be arranged. It had been suggested that the visit take place at the end of May.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Mr. Ady: The need for raising subscriptions is obvious, but why should it be considered that the first 20,000 ft. are worth more than the next 20,000 ? I propose that the subscription rates be amended to £4 4s. for up to 20,000 sq. ft. and £6. 6s. for every 20,000 sq. ft. or part thereof after that.

Mr. Atkins : The present rate was almost unanimously recommended by the Executive Committee and accepted by members at Eastbourne, and should carry more weight than an individual opinion here to-day which might momentarily prove more popular.

Mr. Baker : We hope to have devised a scheme which will be fair to all and ensure the Association getting sufficient revenue to carry out its duties. On the basis that was passed by the meeting at Eastbourne we shall have sufficient revenue for a number of years to carry out our financial obligations.

Mr. Hovell proposed a vote of thanks to the retiring Chairman, Mr. Baker. " He has really helped the MGA on its way," he said.

CORRESPONDENCE

I feel I must protest against Stanley Middlebrook's comments on spawn in the March issue of the Bulletin. In all fairness, I think it should have been made clear that the " bad spawn " to which he refers was NOT of English manufacture but was, in fact, imported.

Mr. Middlebrook's discovery that perhaps his choice of spawn was unfortunate does not justify his conclusion that all spawns are probably unreliable. Indeed his remarks do a grave injustice to those spawn manufacturers who, with a proper sense of their responsibility to the grower, maintain a costly system of laboratory control to ensure that their product is both consistent and reliable.

Robert G. Darlington.
W. Darlington & Sons Ltd.
Worthing.

Enclosed please find my cheque for the Membership for 1957, as well as for the Recipes, etc.

Both " Month by Month " and " Winning Ways " have proved very popular and as my clients seem gradually to dispose of more and more mushrooms, I consider the recipes well worth their cost.

In the February issue of the " Bulletin " Brigadier A. S. G. Douglas does not consider membership of the MGA to be worth 10 gns. a year. Allow me to disagree. True, we greatly miss a research station, but has Brig. Douglas considered the most valuable amount of both technical and general information contained in the " Bulletin " from time to time, some of which can be turned into a financial advantage worth more than 10 gns. a year? Surely the information that Linfields are

increasing their output by 2½ million pounds per year is worth much more than 10 gns., in February, 1957, than if Brig. Douglas found this out in, say six or eight months' time. By getting this information well before Linfields are in a position to flood the market and further depress a price level which is already quite depressing, all growers, however efficient they may be, are given some little time in which to increase still further their efficiency and institute economies that will cushion the effect of Linfields enterprise. It will also give the publicity people some time in which to take further steps to inform the general public that they should eat more mushrooms. This is only one of the many pieces of information which the members of the MGA should be grateful to get and which must be well worth 10 gns. To many it will be worth hundreds of guineas!

Quite apart from the technical and general information, our Association acts as a most friendly focal point for all its members, which gives me at least, a relative beginner, a feeling that one belongs to a friendly fraternity with a unique spirit of comradeship certainly not to be found in any other branch of horticulture and probably not found in any other industry. **D. A. Wilson**

Dr. B. B. Stoller Retorts . . . . . .

A HORSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOUR

It seems Mr. Gathercole, of the Murphy Chemical Co., was rather upset that Terraclor would displace the use of Zineb, or Murphane as his company calls it, for controlling the Mildew, *Dactylium*. He invoked such merchandising practices as to say that his company's Zineb, Murphane, was different from another kind, although both are probably made under the same patent agreements. Furthermore, I tested both kinds and found both equally ineffective. Then he degraded my experiments to a mere "blacklisting" of Zineb for the control of Mildew. His big claim was that Zineb would prevent growth of *Dactylium* for seven days, whereas in our experiments one could see the mildew regrowing as soon as the mushroom was dry—24 to 48 hours. Apparently Mr. Gathercole would not herald the rebirth of *Dactylium* until it was as large as a cobweb!

But all this was two months ago, in Dec., 1956, issue of the MGA Bulletin. In the advertisement by the Murphy Chemical Co., in the Feb. issue, the story is different:—Now the active ingredient of Terraclor is acclaimed as a control for *Dactylium*. Why? Because they have found an English or European source of Terraclor. So now it's a HORSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOUR.

I am not at all objecting to competition. In fact, I replied to Mr. R. G. Darlington, of Worthing, and Mr. Solari, of Paris, France, that there was a German manufacturer of the active ingredient of Terraclor, where it might be obtained for less than I could supply it. But I do object strenuously to the degrading of my experimental work for merchandising purposes.

Again, in the February issue of the MGA Bulletin, Mr. Holliday, of Cyanamid of Great Britain, disregards my article about Phoracide, and states that my advertisement makes untruthful claims about Malathion. The story about loss of resistance need not be re-told. The fact is that Phoracide was developed as a **consequence** of the unsatisfactory control of gnats with Malathion, Diazinon and 12 other insecticides. The experimental methods by which I arrived at my conclusion were fully described. It is unfortunate that people like Mr. Gathercole and Mr. Holliday cannot appreciate the meaning of experimental methods, and appear to have no notion of the immense amount of negative results encountered before such chemicals as Terraclor and Phoracide are discovered to have specific, desirable functions.

I presume others will acclaim the active phosphate of Phoracide as soon as an European source of supply is found. Unfortunately this may not be easy. As far as I know, the only manufacturer of it is in the U.S.

J. E. Ady provides . . . . . .

A QUESTION . . .

I was interested to read in ' Pinheads 173 ' of several cases of bad grain spawn. Could the author state whether this was of British or Foreign manufacture? I have used a make of British Manure Spawn on 26 consecutive crops, of which the lowest yield was 2·1 lb. per sq. ft. and the average 2·5 lb. I do not offer this as contradictory proof; rather as a reason for my question.

. . . AND AN ANSWER

In answer to Atkins' comments on my recent article in the Bulletin, it must first be pointed out that I did not suggest that the Editor was weak in Maths. I simply stated that an elementary error had occurred; how this happened did not concern me.

If Atkins checks up on my article, he will find that I said " . . . . . up to $6\frac{1}{4}$ . . . . . " and not " . . . . . by $6\frac{1}{4}$ . . . . . ", as he puts it. The " up to " was deliberate, it being obvious that the exact figure was less without going into decimal points. Had I foreseen any 'hair-splitting' I would have chosen my words more carefully and written " . . . . . less than $6\frac{1}{4}\%$." Repetition of this $6\frac{1}{4}\%$ was intended to emphasise the point.

' Lacking in buoyancy ' meant ' lacking in cheerfulness ' or ' depressing,' to be more direct.

The instance was mentioned with the un-named grower's knowledge and consent, and the Editor has been acquainted with his name, though not for publication.

STANLEY MIDDLEBROOK'S PINHEADS

179. My recent comment, *sic transit gloria Atkinsi*, was short of the mark. I see from the "Areas" map in the March Bulletin there is no member in Huntingdonshire. It now looks like *sic transit gloria Atkinsi et Noblei et Luxmoorei et ceterarum*. I know these people exist; can it be these forgotten ones from the forgotten birthplace of the MGA are in arrears with their subscription and therefore "written off"?

180. Mrs. K. Crawford, of Dundee, wrote to *Everybody's* that she's tired of the anaemic-looking, tasteless mushrooms offered in the shops. She asks if people like potatoes and carrots scrubbed and polythene-wrapped. She prefers to see signs that vegetables have been in contact with the earth and welcomes a little dirt as long as they retain their freshness. "Why can't mushroom farmers produce mushrooms as dark and succulent as the wild ones from the fields?" she asks. What about it, spawn makers?

181. I am shocked to discover that even the best people are now selling stalks. If ever there was a misguided policy this is it. Hotels and restaurants, serving stalks as "mushrooms," are cashing in on us, deceiving the public, and discouraging them from buying the real thing. Or is it the grower who's deceiving the public? To sell a mushroom with a stalk is one thing, but to sell a stalk without a mushroom is quite unforgiveable. Cut out this cheeseparing meanness!

182. Some growers use fans to push air in, some to extract it. According to "Woods Practical Guide to Fan Engineering" the best results are achieved by using both supply and extract fans in the same building. This way uniform distribution of fresh air can be assured.

183. Mr. ———, that lively travelling member from East Scotland, called on me the other day. We were discussing "suggestions from the staff" and "counter suggestions from the boss." "They have some good ideas," said Mr. ———, "but most times I'm always right." There doesn't seem to be much doubt about it!

184. I have before me three suggestions for keeping trays moving during cropping. The advantages are numerous, but the cost might not be justified. Each tray would pass through every condition in the house at least once a day. All trays could be brought down to working height for filling (or stacking), picking and emptying. Watering, etc., could all be done at floor level.

185. A well-known tray grower, interested in air-conditioning, gave a top-spot Ventilating Engineer an excellent effort-producing lunch, during which the latter said he could produce any desired condition in a mushroom house, regardless! There was no problem he could not solve; the thing was dead easy to one of his experience. In due time the grower took the Engineer along to a growing house. "Tell me," he said, "can you guarantee to give me uniformly moving air in there?" The Engineer was confident. "Certainly we can, but first you must take out all those boxes."

WORLD'S PRESS DIGEST

Dr. Lilian E. Hawker, Botany Dept., The University, Bristol 8, is anxious to obtain living material of the so-called " truffle " of mushroom beds, *Pseudobalsamia microspora* Diehl and Lambert for developmental studies. Material should be packed in a little of the soil or " casing " of the mushroom bed enclosed in a strong box or tin.
British Mycological Society Bulletin, March/57.

The casing must be porous and, under typical mushroom house conditions, should have a high moisture-holding capacity. Soil casings must be maintained moist enough to keep the pF below 4·2. With artificial peat casings a value below 2·0 is probably better. The exact requirements for the casing are related to the surrounding air conditions, and any particular casing has its own requirements as to management of watering, ventilation and air movement if the best results are to be obtained from it . . . . . One air change per hour is enough to provide for the known gaseous exchange due to metabolism. Some air circulation within the house is needed, but if this is excessive the casing dries too rapidly.
Dr. R. L. Edwards in *Scientific Horticulture* XII, 1955-56.

A new metal primer for stopping rust on iron and steel, known as Glopane Universal, has been produced by Corrosion Ltd., of Southampton. It goes straight on to existing rust, which it neutralizes, after a preliminary brush-down of flakes or lumps of rust. Coverage is 24 sq. ft. per lb.; average one-coat application cost is 1½d. a sq. ft. *Scope*, March/57.

Under these higher than normal temperatures *Mycogone* has been more troublesome than usual for this time of year, and more growers are now steam sterilizing the peat which is used for casing. *Commercial Grower*, March 1/57.

Rarely seen, but well worth buying, are the brown mushrooms. They are very heavy, with a creamy-brown skin that doesn't need peeling, and the flavour is superb.
News-Chronicle, March 6/57.

The Committee on Weights and Measures Legislation (report 1951) recommended that when certain fruit and vegetables were prepacked, the packer should be required to prepack to specified net weights. Fortunately the Runciman Committee is opposed to this: " We consider that in certain cases sales on the basis of pack, provided the contents are clearly visible and the count declared, should be permissible without any necessity to pack to a specified net weight." *Produce Packaging*, March/57.

(At the Linfield farms in West Sussex) peat and chalk for casing not only avoid disease risks but eliminate the problem which used to be very serious indeed of finding hundreds of tons of casing soil . . . . . At present the houses are running at five crops a year, but plans are in hand to work an eight-week cycle, based on 35 to 37 days' cropping instead of 42 to 46 . . . . . Mr. A. G. Linfield summed up: " Given a continuance of reasonably full employment we shall find the customers."
H. G. Schaffer, in *Grower*, March 2/57.

In 1954, a strain of *Actinomyces griseus* was isolated at the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of the Sacred Heart, Milan, designated UC 53/1, and tested for antibiosis towards 174 different species of fungi and bacteria. Results showed sharp antagonistic action to the majority of the fungi, but none to the bacteria.
Orsenigo, M., Orsenigo, L. B., and Zucca, R., in *Annual Report of the Faculty of Agriculture*, Series 2, 1955.

Using as a basis the number of (spring wheat) samples reaching the official Seed Testing Station, Mr. J. A. McMillan (NAAS) showed that whereas in 1951 Atle accounted for 20 per cent. of the total, and rose to over 44 per cent. in 1955, it was down to 14 per cent. in 1956 . . . . . At least some of the challenge to Atle is coming from two relatives –Atson & Svenno. *Agriculture*, March/57.

Air free of dust, dirt, smoke, bacteria and other airborne contamination is obtained with the Trion electronic filter introduced to this country by W. C. Holmes & Co. Ltd., of Turnbridge, Huddersfield. Using the principle of electrostatic precipitation, the filter collects all airborne contaminants down to one hundreth of one micron in size – the average size of bacteria is one micron. *Scope*, March/57.

Dear Sirs,

At the request of your Mr. Wood, we have much pleasure in enclosing some data covering a complete year of cropping, at which we are not displeased.

We feel that your spawn and laboratory test and advice service are the two main contributing factors towards good cropping. To acknowledge this and thank you most sincerely is the least we can do.

For the advisory service we would like, in particular, to record special thanks to your Mr. Wood, who has always been most patient, helpful and enlightening.

Yours faithfully,

THIS LETTER & TABLE ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT OUR OFFICES

House No.	W'ks. Crp'd	Date Emptied	Output lb.	Output oz.	Supplement
2	10	12.1.56	3	0¼	P
7	11	25.1.56	3	0	P/A(short)
3	11	14.2.56	2	7¼	A
8	10	21.2.56	2	4¾	S
4	11	14.3.56	2	1	S
9	11	27.3.56	2	9	A
5	10	12.4.56	2	7	S
10	10	25.4.56	2	7¾	A
1	9	10.5.56	2	1¼	S
6	10	24.5.56	2	9½	P/A
2	11	7.6.56	2	6	P
7	11	21.6.56	2	13	P
3	11	5.7.56	2	9	P/S
8	11	19.7.56	2	2½	P(Short)
4	11	2.8.56	3	3	P
9	11	16.8.56	3	2¾	P
5	11	30.8.56	2	12¼	A
10	11	13.9.56	2	12	P
1	11	27.9.56	2	14	P
6	11	11.10.56	2	9	P
2	11	25.10.56	2	15	P
7	11	8.11.56	2	13¼	P
3	11	22.11.56	2	8¾	P
8	11	6.12.56	3	3	P
4	11	18.12.56	2	8¾	P
9	11	31.12.56	2	8½	P

The list above represents 26 consecutive crops grown exclusively on Darlington's White Moist Manure Spawn, averaging 2·64 lb. per crop, including 8% stalks, or 2·33 lb. without stalks.

COMMON FACTORS

Spawn, Medium Manure, Gypsum, Copper-Sulphate, Superphosphates, BHC, Chalk (Duncton), Peat (Sorbex), pH around 7·6.

P—Poultrymanure A—Adco M
S—Supplement
(SHORT) Sinden 7 days compost

OUTPUT TO THE NEAREST ¼ OUNCE

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WORTHING • • • SUSSEX

A total of 1,897,862 packages passed through the hands of Worthing & District Growers to London markets in 1956, an increase of over 35,000 on the previous year . . . . . The largest increase in packages was in mushrooms. *Grower*, February 23/57.

A liquid media . . . . . to be used as a carrier of mushroom spores which, when sprayed on the compost, produces liquid spawn . . . . . shows some promising results; so much so that an experimental trial house has been erected at the Myco Mushroom Farm, and trial crops are already being sprayed with various antibiotics. J. C. Cilia (microbiologist, R. C. Darlington Ltd.) in *Commercial Grower*, February 15/57.

The retention of the whole of the stems obviously benefits the grower, as they materially increase the weight of the crop. The practice is also advantageous to retailers, for mushrooms keep sound and wholesome much longer than if the stalks are cut off. By purchasing mushrooms in their entirety he has them as far as is possible in possession of their full flavour; whereas, if they are divested of their stalks a few days previous to use, they are insipid if not worse, as their virtues have escaped through their wounds, incipient decay has been accelerated, their constituents have been changed, and their wholesomeness impaired.

J. Wright in *Mushrooms for the Million* (1894)

Whereas the planning of new research is being centralised in more and more countries, the problem of digesting and making sense of the results obtained is still largely left to the individual. Concurrently the ability of the individual to digest is shrinking as he becomes steadily more highly specialised. Have we now reached a stage when rather less planning and rather more assimilation would be helpful?

Comment in *Horticultural Abstracts*, March/57.

Snowcap Mushrooms Ltd., of Yaxley, claim to be probably the only company of its kind in the country using nothing but synthetic composts since they started in 1951 . . . . . They prefer the compost in a dryish condition; when gripped in the hand it should not be possible to squeeze water from it, although it should be damp enough to stain the skin . . . . . After ruffling in the spawn at about 70 degrees F., the beds are patted firm, and about a week to ten days later are cased with wet peat to a depth of 1¼ inches and firmed. Cropping usually starts just 21 days after casing, and in five flushes is expected to yield 2½ lb. per sq. ft. . . . . Very little trouble is experienced with diseases; immediately trouble is suspected the infected patch is dug up, bagged to prevent spores spreading, and taken away from the farm.

Commercial Grower, February 22/57.

Monoethanolamine, a chemical which reacts with acidic gases, is being used in controlled atmosphere storage of apples experiments at Summerland Experimental Farm, British Columbia. It is reported to be highly effective in absorbing carbon dioxide from the storage atmosphere, and to be much more effective than caustic soda. *Grower*, March 9/57.

In further researches by Japanese biologists it was found that culture filtrates containing the growth-promoting principle (gibberellic acid) would cause increased growth of many other kinds of plant besides rice, and that the increased growth was apparently due mainly to increased cell size, rather than increased cell multiplication.

Dr. P. W. Brian (I.C.I. in *Grower*, February 23/57.

It looks as if there is room for heavier supplies of mushrooms in the market at a rather lower selling price. Many retailers like to sell at 1s. a quarter, which means they have to buy at 3s. to 3s. 6d. per lb. *Grower*, March 9/57.

It is said so often that the success of pre-packing lies in getting the stuff to the shops with the minimum delay. But if pre-packs do indeed have a longer " shelf life," isn't it even more important to get loose vegetables into the shops quickly?

F. C. Atkins in *Nurseryman & Seedsman*, February 22/57.

EXPERIENCES IN ENGLAND WITH PCNB USED AGAINST COBWEB DISEASE

By J. A. GATHERCOLE, B.Sc. (*Murphy Chemical Co. Ltd.*)

Extensive trials using PCNB on commercial holdings have now reached the reporting stage. The object of the work now completed was to test PCNB in comparison with zineb as both an eradicant and as a preventive treatment for Cobweb (*Dactylium dendroides*) on mushrooms, and also to obtain a measure of its safety in different formulations.

The earliest trials were intended to prove whether PCNB was as effective under British conditions as under those in the U.S.A. Trials at the first two sites showed that the wet spray used at 500 and 1,000 parts per million actual PCNB at one gall./100 sq. ft. (of diluted wash) had an immediate effect upon the Cobweb, causing it to curl up and to die within a few days. At one site the disease was controlled for four weeks with the higher rate of use, with the lower rate giving a control for almost as long. A single application of one pound of a 20% dust per 1,000 square feet was rather slower to show an obvious effect, but eventually it gave a very satisfactory result at both sites.

Comparison was made in both cases with zineb, used both as a wet spray and as a dust. The zineb wet spray gave a control for about seven days, but either old infection grew out, or fresh infection started after that period. The zineb dust was apparently of little use, because patches of Cobweb were not harmed, and fresh patches of disease started in spite of the treatment.

These results were so encouraging that further trials were arranged. In these, PCNB was again used as a wettable powder and as a dust, in comparison with zineb wettable powder. Zineb was not used as a dust in this second series of trials.

This second series of trials was carried out on two commercial holdings where disease was already present. To assess inhibition, the PCNB wet spray rate was raised to 2,000 parts per million, but the dust was still applied at one pound per 1,000 square feet of mushroom bed. One of these trials was successful in every way except that Cobweb appeared rather sooner than expected on the wet spray area. This was taken as being due to inadequate coverage. At the other site, however, in addition to noting this same effect, marked inhibition of mushrooms was noted on the wet spray areas. The dust treatment was, however, completely successful. The zineb plots confirmed our previous observations in that only a temporary control was obtained.

In order that there should be as little risk as possible to the crop, it was decided to abandon the experiments with the wet spray and concentrate on the dust. A third series of trials was started, therefore, in which the dust was applied in a programme and not in single applications as hitherto.

PLATE 1

Treated with Murphy PCNB Dust 26 days previously at one pound per 1,000 square feet of shelf, and left by the Grower except for picking and watering.

PLATE 2

The same shelf about three feet away from the area in Plate 1, but not treated with Murphy PCNB Dust. Also untouched except for picking and watering.

Four trials were arranged where Growers applied the dust for themselves. We wanted to find out whether a full programme could be applied safely, and at what intervals the dust should be used. The rate of use for these experiments was based on the experience gained at the site where one pound of the dust per 1,000 square feet of mushroom gave control for about four weeks. The following programmes were devised and employed:—

(*a*) 1 lb. dust per 1,000 square feet per 14 days.
(*b*) ½ lb. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 14 ,,
(*c*) ½ lb. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 7 ,,
(*d*) ¼ lb. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 7 ,,

Applications were made to both clean and infected beds, the lower rates on the clean beds, and the higher on the infected.

The conclusions drawn from this series of trials showed quite conclusively that either of the rates A or C would eradicate existing infections, and that all four would protect clean beds provided the programme was followed for the time stated. One trial had one house which was allowed to go for three weeks during treatment B, and in the third week Cobweb reinvaded the house.

As a result of these trials we can confidently recommend this formulation of PCNB in any of the following programmes:—

To eradicate existing infections.

½ pound Murphy PCNB Dust per 1,000 square feet every 7 days.

To protect against attack on clean beds.

Either ½ pound Murphy PCNB Dust per 1,000 square feet every 13 days,

or ¼ pound Murphy PCNB Dust per 1,000 square feet every 7 days.

When eradication is achieved it is suggested that the lower rate could be used, but growers would probably be wiser to continue to use the higher rate.

No case of inhibition has so far been noted with the dust formulation, but we do not recommend its use before the first pips are seen. It is not considered that PCNB has an effect against Mycogone and do not recommend that it should be used against this disease. Murphy PCNB Dust does not, therefore, replace zineb in any way. Further work is being done to investigate the possibility of using a combined PCNB/zineb dust so that control of both Bubble and Cobweb can be obtained with only one formulation in dust form.

The illustrations are taken from one of the first trials. Plate 1 shows an area of mushroom shelf treated with 20% PCNB dust at one pound per 1,000 square feet. Prior to treatment there was a moderate infection of Cobweb. The dust has checked the disease, eradicating existing patches, and protecting the fresh mushrooms against further infection. This plate is of a typical view within the treated area. Plate 2 shows another portion of the same shelf less than three feet away from that illustrated in Plate 1, but on an untreated area. There is a heavy

infection by now. This is illustrated in the left centre of the photograph by a large patch, and there are three other areas which are infected to a lesser extent.

The photographs were taken between three and four weeks after treatment, and the grower had very kindly left the beds alone except for watering and picking, for the benefit of the experiment.

PROVIDENT SCHEME FOR MEMBERS

The MGA is arranging to institute a Provident Scheme for its members. The object is to safeguard members against the expense of private treatment for major illnesses, including surgical operations. Private treatment in nursing homes, hospital pay-beds and specialists' consulting rooms, do not come under the National Health Service, and the patient has to pay the full cost. The Provident Scheme is designed to enable members of MGA and their dependants to make the best and promptest arrangements without having to worry about the cost, and to give a measure of privacy which is not possible under the National Health Service. Thus the Provident Scheme is not intended to dissuade people from availing themselves of the National Health Service, but rather to provide supplementary benefits to remedy its shortcomings.

The arrangements have been made with the British United Provident Association (President: Lord Nuffield), a non-profit making organisation which exists solely for the benefit of its subscribers.

Under the Group Scheme the British United Provident Association's standard rates of subscription will be reduced by 20%. Arrangements will be made for the collection of subscriptions annually by a Banker's Order made payable to the Mushroom Growers' Association.

The Scheme is not costly. For example a man between the ages of 30 and 49 can join Scale 8 for an annual subscription of £6.12.0. and obtain grants of up to £18.18.0. a week for in-patient maintenance; £63.0.0. in respect of fees for each major operation and, in addition, grants towards other specialist services, in-patient or out-patient, and home nursing. For an additional £3.5.0. he can obtain these benefits for his wife as well, while a further £2.4.0. secures them for all his children under 18 years of age, irrespective of number: other Scales, providing high or lower benefits, are also offered.

Under the Group Scheme members will be entitled to benefit immediately on acceptance and will not be subject to the usual three months' waiting period.

The MGA strongly recommend the Scheme to its members and it is hoped that it will commence on 1st June, 1957. If you are interested you can get a descriptive booklet and an application form for membership from the Secretary, who will act as Group Secretary. Those wishing to join should send their completed application forms to the Group

Secretary at Agriculture House, and if desired such forms may be placed in a sealed envelope, marked, " Confidential—for direct remission to B.U.P.A."

If you are already a member of B.U.P.A. and under 65 years of age, you may apply to transfer to the Group as from the date of its commencement, a refund being made of any balance of your current individual subscription which may be outstanding. In order that your transfer may be effected a Group application form should be completed, quoting your existing registration number.

PUBLICITY SUBSCRIBERS 1957 LIST

Salesmen:—	£	s.	d.
Francis Nicholls Ltd., Smithfield Market, Birmingham	157	10	0
R. E. Jenkinson Ltd., Covent Garden Market, W.C.2..	105	0	0
T. J. Poupart Ltd., Covent Garden, London, W.C.	100	0	0
Dan Wuille & Co. Ltd., Covent Garden Market, W.C.2	50	0	0
Wm. Artindale & Son Ltd., Castlefolds Market, Sheffield	21	0	9
J. Collingridge Ltd., Covent Garden Market, W.C.2	25	0	0
Geo. Jackson & Co. Ltd., Smithfield Market, Birmingham	5	5	0
Ed. H. Lewis & Sons Ltd., Covent Garden Market, W.C.2	5	5	0
A. E. Phippen (Brentford) Ltd., Brentford	5	5	0
C. Snowdon & Co. Ltd., Castlefolds Market, Sheffield	7	11	3
Marks & Co. Ltd., Covent Garden, London, W.C.	1	1	0

***Spawn Makers/Merchants:—**

H. Mount & Sons Ltd., Littlebourne, Canterbury.
W. Darlington & Sons Ltd., Southcourt Road, Worthing.
Monlough Food Production Co. Ltd., Ballygowan, Belfast.
S. A. F. Sampson Ltd., Oving, Chichester.

Sundriesmen, etc.:—			
Shirley Organics Ltd., Vicarage Wharf, Battersea, S.W.11	25	0	0

*Amounts collected by Spawn Merchants are not for publication.
†Previous contributions already acknowledged.

Send your Contributions to :—

THE SECRETARY,
MGA, AGRICULTURE HOUSE
KNIGHTSBRIDGE, LONDON, S.W.1

Continued from page 114

This is the day of organisation and methods, costings, etc., which we never heard of years ago. Don't spend all your time in the office. Watch the results of your efforts and if you work on costings emphasise the right things. There is a danger of overdoing this costings business. Personal attention to growing and producing mushrooms is essential. Let the other things follow.

To-day we have to consider labour relationship. I think we have to bring our workpeople more and more into the picture. They should be able to say ' This is our concern.' Let them think it is their place as well as yours, let them share in the endeavours and in the rewards and take them with us all the time.

Mr. Linfield concluded:—

" I have not got much more to say except to wish you well in the Association and to say to the young people, ' Chin up, don't worry, come along with us and make a job of it. We will all come together.' I wish them the serenity to go along, the courage to change what they can and the wisdom to know the difference.

Mrs. Baker, on behalf of the ladies, expressed thanks to the Association for the wonderful bouquet and also for the opportunity to be present that day. The ladies were pleased to assist whenever possible and, she added, " We love coming to these functions—please ask us again."

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MGA HUNGARIAN RELIEF FUND

Organised by Mr. G. W. Baker, the MGA Hungarian Relief Fund totalled £1,010 0s. 3d.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT

	£	s.	d.				£	s.	d.
DONATIONS	1,010	0	3	1956					
				21 Nov.		British Red Cross	250	0	0
				21	„	Mayor of Eastbourne	250	0	0
				28	„	Sir James Turner (NFU Hungarian Relief Fund)	400	0	0
				1957					
				13 Mar.		Sir James Turner (NFU Hungarian Relief Fund)	108	0	0
				13 Mar.		Petty Cash (Postages) ..	2	0	3
	£1,010	0	3				£1,010	0	3

I have examined the above Account with the Receipt Book of the MGA Hungary Appeal, and the Bank Statement together with receipted accounts. In my opinion it is correct.

22*nd March*, 1957.

F. H. HARMAN,
Incorporated Accountant.

WATCH THIS LIST—SUPPORT THEM

The Publicity Committee acknowledge the following contributions, made last month to the MGA Publicity Fund and urge all members to support those who, in turn, are supporting the MGA effort to widely publicize the Cultivated Mushroom.

	£	s.	d.
J. Stratton Ltd., Salesmen, Spitalfields Market, London, S.E.1	5	5	0
*C. Snowdon & Co. Ltd., Salesmen, Castlefolds Market, Sheffield ..	4	0	7
Mitchell Bros. (Andover) Ltd., Salesmen, Vigo Road, Andover.. ..	2	2	0
Sir Ernest Shentall Ltd., Salesmen, Chesterfield, Derby.	2	2	0
Herbert Hitchcock & Son Ltd., Salesmen, Boro' Market, S.E.1.. ..	5	5	0
Wm. Morgan & Co. Ltd., Salesmen, Custom House Street, Cardiff ..	10	10	0
Ernest White Ltd., Salesmen, Kirkgate Market, Leeds	5	0	0
Jas. Blackburn (Manchester) Ltd., Salesmen, Smithfield Market, Man.	10	10	0
C. W. Tooley & Son Ltd., Salesmen, Nottingham	2	2	0

†***Spawn Merchants**

Monlough Food Production Co. Ltd., Ballygowan, Belfast.
W. Darlington & Sons Ltd., Southcourt Road, Worthing.
Geo. Monro Ltd., Hertford Road, Waltham Cross.
Pinkerton's Scottish Mushroom Laboratories, Millerston, Glasgow.
S. A. F. Sampson Ltd., Oving, Chichester, Sussex.

*Previous contributions already acknowledged.

†*Amounts not for publication.

Sundriesmen

Thomas Elliott Ltd., Eagle Mills, New Church Road, S.E.5	10	10	0

A distinguished authority writes on . . . . . .

BOLETUS EDULIS

By JOHN RAMSBOTTOM

Readers of the article, "Will Mushrooms Control Cancer?" in the MGA Bulletin for December last (pp. 425-7) may have found the references to *Boletus edulis* a little confusing; for though the original observations were made on dried specimens from Europe, the preliminary account of the researches was written with special reference to the U.S.A.

As probably everybody knows, *Boletus edulis* is one of the most appreciated of all edible fungi, with a reputation going back to classical times. Enormous quantities are sold in continental markets. It is known in France as **Cepe,** in Germany as **Steinpilz,** in Italy as **Porcino** and has popular names in all other European countries except here: in Sweden it is called **Karl Johanssvamp,** after Karl XIV Johan (Bernadotte), who had an inordinate liking for it.

Boletus edulis is also readily obtainable either dried or canned: both methods of conservation have a long and interesting history. Packets of the dried fungus, for use in soups and sauces, can now be bought in many grocer's shops in this country, whereas formerly it had to be sought in what used to be called Italian warehouses, in districts like Soho.

Drs. G. H. Lucas and J. A. Stevens have a paragraph on the identity of the organism which "exhibited tumor-retarding properties in tests against mouse sarcoma 180." Where such important results have been obtained precise diagnosis is a *sine qua non*. How does what uncertainty there is arise?

Boletus edulis, in its widest sense, has four well-marked European "forms." Mushroom growers will probably be little surprised that it was apparently on the markets that they were first distinguished—and given popular names.

The different forms may be roughly distinguished as follows:

Boletus edulis (**Cèpe**) has a smooth polished cap, toast-brown and lighter towards the edge, somewhat like the old "penny bun" in appearance: the under-surface (of tubes) is whitish when young, then yellow or greenish, the stem is white or tinged with pale brown, with a raised white network in the upper part though this may extend some way down. Common in frondose woods in autumn.

Boletus reticulatus (**Cèpe d'été**) is similar but the surface of the cap is slightly downy, and somewhat sticky when wet: the stem is brown but lighter than the cap, and the network, with rather elongated meshes, extends to the base. Common in both deciduous and coniferous woods in summer.

Boletus pinicola (**Cèpe des pins**) has a much darker reddish brown velvety cap usually with a whitish rim: the network on the creamy reddish stem is white above, brown below. Frequent in coniferous woods in summer and autumn.

Boletus aereus (**Cèpe noir**) has a very dark brown, almost black cap and a reddish brown stem with a brown network. Uncommon in Northern Europe; in dry oak woods, summer and autumn.

All except the last are well-known in this country. *B. aereus*, though it is recorded here, must be very rare.

Mycologists treat these forms in different ways. Some regard them as distinct, closely related species: others treat them as sub-species, others as varieties, others still as all variations of a single species, *Boletus edulis*.

One further point needs mention for the understanding of the paragraph on p. 426. There are two ways of considering sub-species and varieties. Formerly it was customary to describe the species (type) and treat lower ranks as if derived from this. Thus we would have *Boletus edulis*, *Boletus edulis* var. (or ssp.) *pinicola*. Many systematists, however, think this illogical, and regard the species as including all the lower categories attached to it. Thus R. Singer, who is referred to, writes *B. edulis* ssp. *euedulis* for the old *B. edulis* extending the definition of his *B. edulis* to cover everything to which the name is attached. In other words his conception of *Boletus edulis* includes all (four) forms each of which he regards as sub-species; *B. edulis* ssp. *eudedulis* is the cèpe.

The authors think that *B. edulis* ssp. *pinicola* is " the one with which we most likely have been dealing." As the dried commercially available specimens were from Central Europe, *B. aereus* may safely be ruled out. With regard to the others it is difficult to distinguish between them when they are dried and sliced. The only hint that can be got is from the pictures on the labels, and these, both on packets and on tins, though often of little artistic merit, indicate that all three forms are commonly used—depending doubtless on what is available (the label picturing that best known, or locally most favoured).

I have seen all four forms in continental markets—*B. aereus* in Switzerland and Italy: the three others are occasionally to be seen on street-barrows in Soho.

Collybia radicata, mentioned in the article, is very common here, usually arising from the roots of beech, the length of the underground rat-tail-like portion depending on the depth of the root below the surface. *Collybia longipes* is much less common. *C. radicata*, though very variable, is always easily recognised: it would be interesting to have confirmed the suggestion that there are real intermediates between the two species.

It is outside my present purpose to comment on what is the real interest of the article, i.e., the effect of fungal extracts on carcinoma in mice on which research is proceeding. Fungi in former days had many virtues and vices attributed to them because of their bizarre methods of existence. Moulds have now been acclaimed for their varied biochemical activities. It must not be overlooked that very many substances are formed by toadstools, some of which, when properly screened, may be found of great value to mankind—both directly and indirectly.

MOUNT MUSHROOM SPAWN

Washington,
Pulborough, Sussex.

J. E. R. Simons Ltd.,
Harlow,
Essex.

23rd Feb., 1957.

Dear Sirs,

I have great pleasure in sending you this photograph of mushrooms. The spawn is Mount Enve (Grain). It is a first flush, and produced 1 lb. per square foot in seven days. Since then the second flush produced 2/3 and the third flush which is now on looks just as promising. But this is not my first crop that has done so well as this; I have had many which have given me 3 pounds per square foot—and 4 pounds on outdoor ridge beds—all with Mount Enve. My father, Ernest Lee, of Broadwater Lane Nurseries, Copsale, Horsham, has, as you most probably know, the same results.

My compliments to you for producing this strain of spawn.

Yours sincerely,

Cecil Lee.

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ACCLAIMED BY PENNSYLVANIA GROWERS

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Here's what growers told Joe Jaggi after they sprayed with PHORACIDE :

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Remember—PHORACIDE CONTROLS THE MUSHROOM FLIES AND GNATS WITHOUT ANY SPRAYING ON THE BEDS OR MUSHROOMS. No residue on mushrooms.

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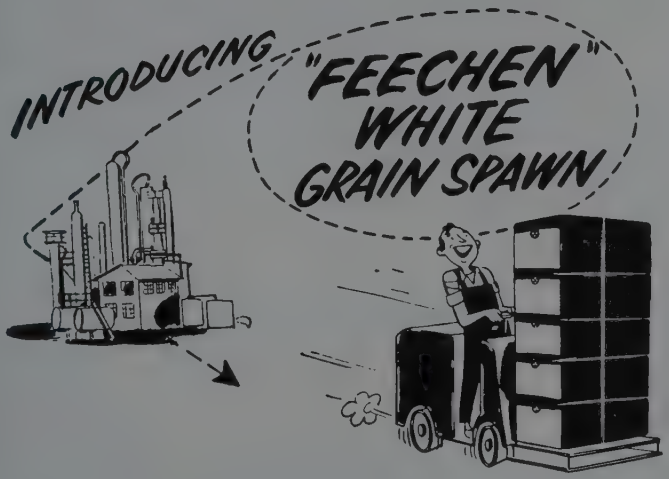

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The first material based on pentachloronitrobenzene to be offered by an English company for this purpose.

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